Amendments to the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-27 and 64-69 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please withdraw claims 50-51, 55-56 and 58-59.

Please add new claims 70-72.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the claims:

1.-27. (Canceled).

28. (Original) A method of treating a viral infection in a mammal, the method comprising:

selecting a mammal infected by an envelope virus or suspected of having been infected by an envelope virus; and

administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol-sequestering agent effective to reduce viral load in the mammal.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is a cyclodextrin.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the cyclodextrin is a beta-cyclodextrin.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is 2-OH-propyl-beta-cyclodextrin.

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the amount of the cholesterol-sequestering agent administered to the mammal is effective to reduce viral load in the blood of the mammal.

33. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the amount of the cholesterol-sequestering agent administered to the mammal is effective to reduce viral load in an interstitial space of the mammal.

34. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol lowering agent effective to reduce the level of serum cholesterol in the mammal.

35. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered intravenously.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered by a bolus injection.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is infused into the mammal over a period of at least two minutes.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered in at least two intravenous administrations separated by an interval of at least one hour.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered in at least four intravenous administrations separated by an interval of at least 12 hours.

40. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is co-administered with at least one antiviral agent.

41. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring the titer of the envelope virus after administration of the cholesterol-sequestering agent.

42. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring the titer of the envelope virus before administration of the cholesterol-sequestering agent.

43. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring an immune response in the mammal against the envelope virus after administration of the cholesterol-sequestering agent.

44. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring an immune response in the mammal against the envelope virus before administration of the cholesterol-sequestering agent.

45. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to a dermal surface of the mammal.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the mammal has a skin lesion resulting from an infection by the envelope virus, and wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is applied topically to the skin lesion.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the topical administration of the cholesterol-sequestering agent results in a reduction in viral load in the skin lesion.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the envelope virus is a herpes virus.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the herpes virus is human herpes virus 1.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the herpes virus is human herpes virus 2.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the envelope virus is a poxvirus.

52. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the dermal surface in the form of a cream.

53. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is co-administered with at least one antiviral agent.

54. (Original) A method of treating or preventing an infection in a mammal, the method comprising:

selecting a mammal infected by a microorganism or suspected of having been infected by a microorganism, wherein during at least a portion of its life cycle the microorganism enters a cell of the mammal by endocytosis; and

administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol-sequestering agent effective to reduce the load of the microorganism in the mammal.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a bacterium.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a mycobacterium.

57. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a virus.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a fungus.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a protozoan.

60. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the upper respiratory tract of the mammal.

61. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the lower respiratory tract of the mammal.

62. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the mammal by inhalation.

63. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the mammal by intrathecal administration.

64.-69. (Canceled).

70. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the virus is an envelope virus.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the envelope virus is a human herpes virus.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the human herpes virus is human herpes virus 1.